

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 12 were objected to. Claims 1 to 8 and 11 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Siler et al. (U.S. 5,771,811). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Siler et al. in view of Banke (U.S. 4,872,407). Claims 10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Siler et al. Claims 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Siler et al. in view of Chretienat et al (U.S. 6,167,806). Claim 18 was rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Siler et al. in view of Hunold et al. (U.S. 6,165,732).

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 8 have been amended. Claims 11 and 12 are now properly spaced. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 to 12 were objected to. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 8 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis, and claims 11 and 12 properly spaced apart. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 to 8 and 11 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Siler et al. (U.S. 5,771,811).

Siler describes a pre-registration system for a printing press. A printing plate 62 is mounted to a printing cylinder 28 so that a reference mark 72 of the plate is aligned in a predetermined position relative to a reference mark 70 of the printing cylinder 68. A sensor 114 senses reference mark 70 on the printing cylinder 28 and generates a detection signal in response thereto. See col. 3, lines 58 to 61 and col. 4, lines 54 to 67 of Siler.

A pre-registration command alters the position of the reference mark 70 with respect to a die cut cylinder 46 to place each printing cylinder in proper registration or phase with respect to the die cut cylinder 46. See col. 6, lines 14 to 57.

Claim 1 of the present application recites a method for presetting motor phase in a web printing press comprising the steps of:

providing a mark on a first printing form, the mark being a function of a desired preset phase for a motor driving the first printing form during printing;
reading the mark using a sensor, the sensor having a sensor output; and
presetting the phase of the motor as a function of the sensor output.

The sensor 114 of Siler reads reference mark 70 on the plate cylinder 28. Sensor 114 not read mark 72, as asserted in the Office Action. See also Figure 2 of Siler. Siler thus does not provide a mark on the printing form and then “read the mark using a sensor” as claimed in claim 1, but rather reads a separate reference mark 70.

For this reason alone, withdrawal of the rejection to claim 1 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, the mark 70 which is read in Siler is a reference mark, i.e. has the same angular position on the cylinder regardless of the preset, and thus the mark itself is not a function of a desired preset phase for a motor. In other words, regardless of the desired preset phase, the reference mark 70 is always the same.

With further respect to claims 3 and 4, neither mark 70 nor 72 of Siler includes information related to the desired preset phase. The pre-registration command information of Siler is stored in the controllers and is independent of the mark. See col. 6, line 14 et seq. of Siler. Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 3 and 4 for this reason as well is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 13 recites a printing form comprising a main image area and a mark indicative of a desired preset motor phase. The present invention provides such phase information for example via variable known distances or bar codes. The mark 72 of Siler on the other hand is merely used to identify where the image on the plate is located. The mark 72 of Siler thus does not indicate at all what the desired preset motor phase is, and one could not derive from the Siler printing form what the desired preset motor phase is. The pre-registration command information in Siler is not contained in the mark, and the mark thus is not “indicative of a desired preset motor phase” as claimed.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) to claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 14 recites a web printing press including:

a first printing group for printing a first web and having at least one first drive motor and at least one first printing form, the first printing form having a first mark providing first preset motor phase information for presetting the first drive motor to a first preset phase;

a first sensor for reading the first mark, the first sensor having an output; and

a controller for determining the first preset motor phase information as a function of the output of the first sensor.

Siler does not have any sensor that reads a mark on a printing form, as claimed in claim 14. Nor does the mark 72 of Siler provide first preset motor phase information. This information in Siler is provided by the controllers, and not provided by the mark, which merely locates the image of Siler on the plate

Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 14 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Siler et al. in view of Banke (U.S. 4,872,407).

It is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to read the mark of Siler prior to placement on the printing plate, as mark 72 has no use prior to actual placement of the printing form on the plate cylinder, and the location of the mark 72 on the plate is know when it is placed thereon.

For this reason, as well as the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1, withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claim 9 is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Siler et al. Claims 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Siler et al. in view of Chretienat et al (U.S. 6,167,806). Claim 18 was rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Siler et al. in view of Hunold et al. (U.S. 6,165,732).

For the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 14, withdrawal of the rejections to claims 10 and 15 to 18 is respectfully requested.

• Appl. No. 10/612,219
• Amdt. dated July , 2004
• Reply to Office Action of April 27, 2004

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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